

The CO₂ vacuum cleaners

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By means of innovative processes, German industry groups, such as LANXESS or the energy utility RWE, are trying to limit the production of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide or laughing gas (nitrous oxide). RWE, for instance, has commissioned research in algae, which grow ten times faster than plants on land plants, thus binding the corresponding amounts of CO₂ in biomass and oxygen. At the LANXESS plant in Krefeld-Uerdingen, laughing gas, which is a by-product of the production of adipic acid, has been split up in a thermal process since 1992. Thanks to a second plant that was inaugurated in March 2009, all of the laughing gas produced is now being destroyed.